

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00  
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R 061515Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7009

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

INFO/RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY GABORONE 3135

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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FROM AMBASSADOR NORLAND

MBABANE FOR OSARAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, LT, LY

SUBJECT: LESOTHO'S CAMPAIGN FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

1. SUMMARY: RETURNING HERE AFTER A SIX-WEEKS ABSENCE, I FIND GOL OFFICIALS PREOCCUPIED TO UNUSUAL DEGREE (EVEN FOR THEM) WITH THE SEARCH FOR EXTERNAL ECONOMIC AID FROM ABROAD. FOR ANY LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY, THIS IS PERHAPS UNDERSTANDABLE; FOR A LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY LIKE LESOTHO COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY SOUTH AFRICA, WITH WHICH IT IS INHERENTLY AT ODDS, AND ON WHICH IT IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT, THE SEARCH FOR OUTSIDE AID ASSUMES THE PROPORTIONS OF A CONTINUOUS CAMPAIGN (LESOTHO'S IMPORTS IN 1976 WERE \$80 MILLION; ITS EXPORTS WERE \$9 MILLION.) AID DONORS ARE CAREFULLY STUDIED AND CLASSIFIED.

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THE PRESENT MOOD OF THE GOL FINMIN IS ONE OF FRUSTRATION DUE TO INABILITY TO BUILD UP RESERVES AND THE SLOW PACE OF ACTUALIZATION OF EMERGENCY AID. LIBYA IS PRAISED AS THE ONE COUNTRY THAT HAS "COME THROUGH". END SUMMARY.

2. THE MOOD ENCOUNTERED IN GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES AFTER A SIX-WEEK ABSENCE IS ONE OF DETERMINATION TO FIND RELIABLE MEANS

AND SOURCES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. THIS IS HARDLY SURPRISING IN ANY LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY; IT IS TO BE EXPECTED IN LESOTHO AT THIS TIME FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: FIRST, GOL RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA ARE AT A LOW EBB WITH ALL SIGNS INDICATING THAT THEY WILL WORSEN AS TENSIONS MOUNT WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF AND BETWEEN THE SAG AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD. LIKE A THERMOMETER IN SAG'S BODY POLITIC, LESOTHO IS ABLE TO MEASURE THE TEMPERATURE IN THE AREA WHICH SHOWS A NOTICEABLE FEVER AT THE MOMENT; SECOND, THIS COUNTRY HAS FEW LEVERS FOR DRAWING ATTENTION TO ITSELF AND ITS PLIGHT. WITH THE CREATION OF TRANSKEI, SAG HANDED THE GOL AN ISSUE WHICH ATTRACTED THE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT OF THE ENTIRE WORLD COMMUNITY OPPOSED TO APARTHEID. THERE IS SOME FEELING HERE THAT, IN GOL'S ANXIETY TO OBTAIN ASSISTANCE, IT IS NOT ABOVE SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES TO PERPETUATE TENSIONS I AN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN ITS CLAIM FOR SUCH AID. THE EXAGGERATED FASHION IN WHICH GOL HANDLED THE SHOOTING INCIDENT ON ITS BORDER (MASERU 521) HAS LED VETERAN LOCAL OBSERVERS (SUCH AS THE DEAN OF THE CORPS) TO CONCLUDE THAT THE GOL WOULD NOT WANT BORDER TENSIONS TO SUBSIDE. THE FARAH (UN) MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ASSISTING LESOTHO ARE THE CONCRETE WAYS FOR COUNTRIES TO EXPRESS CONCERN. THAT REPORT IS NOW COMPLETED AND THE GOL IS LOSING NO OPPORTUNITY TO LOBBY FOR ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. FARAH PROMISE: AT THE MOMENT THE GOL IS ENGAGED IN A VERITABLE CAMPAIGN TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE FARAH MISSION REPORT. (A) FOREIGN MINISTER C.D. MOLAPO IS IN CAIRO TO BE PRESENT, ACCORDING TO MINFIN SEKHONYANA, WHEN FARAH SUBMITS HIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORT TO THE ARAB LEAGUE, AND (B) LESOTHO'S AMBASSADORS INCLUDING THOSE FROM THE U.S. AND U.N. ARE HERE FOR CONSULTATIONS IN ORDER TO "ASSURE FULL COORDINATION" OF GOL REACTIONS AND REQUESTS STEMMING FROM THE FARAH REPORT (AGAIN SEKHONYANA'S COMMENTS TO US). THE MOOD IS ONE OF "STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT" AND THE FARAH REPORT IS MOST PROMISING IRON FOR INDUCING AID (IF NOT THE ONLY ONE) IN GOL'S RECENT HISTORY.

4. LOL NEEDS: FINANCE MINISTER SEKHONYANA REFLECTED ON THE FRUSTRATIONS OF TRYING TO KEEP FINANCIALLY SOLVENT A LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY THAT IS SOME 75 PERCENT DEPENDENT ON FOREIGN AID SOURCES (SOUTH AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION AND DONORS). HE WAS IN A DISCOURAGED MOOD WHEN I SAW HIM APRIL 29. HIS HOPES OF ACCUMULATING A FEW MILLION RAND AS RESERVE (IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL EXPERT ADVICE) WERE ONCE AGAIN DTMED, THIS TIME BY THE DEMANDS OF FUNCTIONARIES (SUPPORTED BY PARLIAMENT) FOR SALARY INCREASES AWARDED EFFECTIVE APRIL 1. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL

KEY EMERGENCY PROJECTS WERE AT A STANDSTILL AND AID DONORS WERE HESITANT AND UNCERTAIN.

5. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: IN A REFERENCE TO THE RESPONSE TO LESOTHO'S REQUEST FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, THE FINMIN SAID: "THE TERRIBLE THING IS WHEN THE PROBLEM IS WITH ONE'S FRIENDS." THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT HAS COME THROUGH" WITH EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AS PROMISED IS LIBYA. IT WAS NOT MUCH AS YET, HE ADDED, BUT "IT CAME THROUGH". HE REFERRED TO AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AS LIBYA'S CONTRIBUTION. (FROM THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, ROC AMB. LIU, WE LEARN THAT LIBYA HAS PROMISED TO MAKE SOME \$20 MILLION AVAILABLE BUT ACCORDING TO A GOT PRESS REPORT ONLY \$250,000 HAS BEEN ACTUALLY RELEASED FOR THE PURCHASE OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND POSSIBLY AN ADDITIONAL UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT FOR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.)

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YM CONCLUSION. THE U.S. CAN GREATLY ASSIST IN RELIEVING THE FRUSTRATION AND INDECISION, MEET A PRIORITY GOL NEED, AND TAKE THE LEAD IN RESPONDING TO THE FARAH REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS BY MAKING AN EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WE WILL BILD THE MOHALES HOEK-QACHA'S NEK ROAD AS REQUESTED.  
STOKEE

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## Message Attributes

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